

REMARKS

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of its length and because the word "means" was used in line 4 thereof. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the abstract by way of the instant response to bring it into compliance with the required length and word usage criteria.

The specification is objected to for failing to provide the proper antecedent basis for the claimed "linear distance sensor" in line 30 of claim 25. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's recognition of this inadvertent error and has amended claim 25 by way of the instant response to recite a linear "position" sensor as Applicant disclosed on page 17, lines 5-9 of the originally-filed specification.

Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-26 and 28-65 are in the case with original claims 7, 19 and 27 being canceled and claims 34-65 being newly added. No claims are allowed. Attached hereto is a Fee Transmittal and a check covering the cost for the newly added claims.

Claims 1-5, 8, 12-17, 20, 23-25, 28 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Face (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,143).

Claims 6, 18 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Face in view of Graves (U.S. Patent No. 4,403,419).

Finally, claims 7, 9, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim,

but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The rejections and objection are respectfully traversed in view of the instant amendment. In general, Applicant has amended the originally-filed claims and added new claims in accordance with the Examiner's objection to claims 7, 9, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30 and 31. More specifically, claim amendments/additions along with explanations thereof are presented in the following outline:

(A) Claim 1 is amended to include all the limitations of "objected to" claim 7 (now canceled).

(B) Claim 14 is amended to include all the limitations of "objected to" claim 19 (now canceled).

(C) Claim 25 is amended to include all the limitations of "objected to" claim 27 (now canceled).

(D) Claim 34 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 1 and "objected to" claim 9. Dependent claims 35-39 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 4-6, 12 and 13.

(E) Claim 40 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 1 and "objected to" claim 10. Dependent claims 41-45 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 4-6, 12 and 13.

(F) Claim 46 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 14 and "objected to" claim 21.

Dependent claims 46-51 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 16-18, 23 and 24.

(G) Claim 52 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 14 and "objected to" claim 22.

Dependent claims 53-57 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 16-18, 23 and 24.

(H) Claim 58 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 25 and "objected to" claim 29.

Dependent claims 59-61 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 26, 32 and 33.

(I) Claim 62 is newly added and includes all the limitations of originally-filed claim 25 and "objected to" claim 30.

Dependent claims 63-65 are newly added and respectively recite the limitations of originally-filed claims 26, 32 and 33.

In view of all the art of record, the claims remaining in the case are considered to patentably distinguish thereover and are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

It is submitted in view of these remarks that all grounds for rejection have been removed by the foregoing amendment.

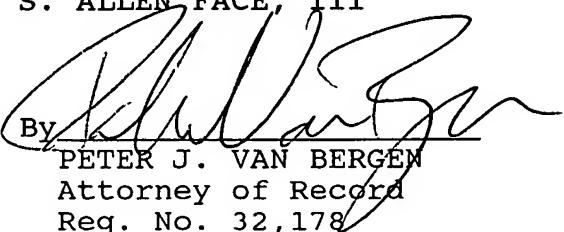
Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to phone Peter J. Van Bergen, attorney for Applicant, 757-220-2649, if in his opinion such phone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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7 December 2004

By 
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